

President Trump's budget would eliminate the NEA's \$148 million budget, the NEH's \$148 million budget—accounting for less than .03 percent of total discretionary spending. Yet the impact they make on our communities is enormous. While all fifty states would be negatively impacted by these cuts, rural communities would be hit the hardest. According to the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, approximately 25 percent of NEA block-grant funds go to rural communities and 54 percent to low-income areas.

A nation without arts is one without an identity. In the words of one of my heroes, the late Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, "The arts are not a frill. The arts are a response to our individuality and our nature, and help to shape our identity. Art has the potential to unify. It can speak in many languages without a translator. The arts do not discriminate. The arts can lift us up." And they do.

Artists have used their mediums to process their experiences—and to share their perspectives with all of us. There is no more valuable gift. We must defend this funding.

HONORING JONATHAN SHUFFIELD

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an individual who has served the people of Arkansas' Fourth Congressional District with dedication during the last two and a half years. My legislative director, Jonathan Shuffield, has led my legislative team since I took office in January 2015, bringing with him an extensive knowledge of federal lands, forestry, and how to navigate the legislative process in the House.

Prior to serving the people of Arkansas, Jonathan worked as a legislative assistant for Congressman STEVE PEARCE of New Mexico beginning in January 2011 and the Congressional Western Caucus, where he served as executive director until December 2014.

While I am disappointed to lose a valuable member of my office's senior leadership, I know Jonathan will continue to make an impact on the important issues in the years ahead. I thank him for his work on behalf of the people of Arkansas and wish him well as he moves forward in his career.

COMMEMORATING 38TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 38th Anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA), the pillar upon which our robust friendship with Taiwan stands.

The United States and Taiwan share the common interests and values of freedom, democracy, rule of laws, human rights and free market. Our security commitment has helped Taiwan become one of the most free and prosperous societies in the world. The United

States enjoys cooperation with Taiwan on a broad range of concerns, including security, economic cooperation and development, global engagement, humanitarian relief, counterterrorism, people-to-people exchanges—and the list goes on. It is my firm belief that a strong and prosperous Taiwan will guarantee peace and prosperity in the region.

As we commemorate the 38th Anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act, it is in the national interest of the United States to take decisive action to strengthen U.S.–Taiwan relations.

I also noticed that the President of the Peoples Republic of China, Xi Jinping is visiting the United States to visit with our President. It is my hope that the upcoming meeting is positive and constructive. U.S. engagement with the PRC is important to the peace and stability of the region. We should always hope and insist that the U.S.–Taiwan relations, and Taiwan's security and interests, are not in any way compromised.

Taiwan is a great friend of the United States. Taiwan is and will continue to be a friend of the United States.

HONORING WILLIAM T. COLEMAN

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of a civil rights champion: Secretary William T. Coleman, who I had the privilege to know while working as a congressional staffer for another civil rights hero, Congressman Ron Dellums. Secretary Coleman served this country with character and conviction.

He served in World War II and graduated first in his 1946 Harvard Law School Class. He also broke through racial barriers to become the first African American Supreme Court Clerk and the second African-American in U.S. History to lead a Cabinet-level department.

Secretary Coleman believed deeply in the Constitution and fought to defend civil rights at all costs. It was his commitment to that belief that led Thurgood Marshall to recruit Secretary Coleman to coauthor the legal brief in *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954. I was honored to work in a bipartisan fashion alongside Secretary Coleman's Special Assistant, Elaine Jones during his tenure as Secretary of Transportation in the Ford Administration.

Together we were able to include language on affirmative action in the Airport and Airway Development Act. Secretary Coleman's determination in the face of discrimination has served as an inspiration for me throughout my career.

My thoughts and prayers are with Bill's wife and family during this trying time. I am confident that his legacy will live on through the lives of those he touched.

May his soul rest in peace.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SUPERVISOR JOHN J. BENOIT AND HIS POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO THE LIVES OF THOUSANDS OF RESIDENTS OF RIVERSIDE COUNTY

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Riverside County Supervisor John Benoit who passed away on December 26, 2016 after a life of public service to the people of California and the residents of Riverside County. Throughout his career, Mr. Benoit served with duty, honor, and integrity and was an example to many across the region.

Mr. Benoit began his life in public service with the Corona Police Department and then with the California Highway Patrol. Over the next 30 years, Supervisor Benoit rose through the ranks to become commander of the Indio CHP Station. Because of his dedication and tireless efforts, California's highways and communities are safer. Supervisor Benoit retired from his distinguished career in law enforcement in 2001 to pursue elected office.

Supervisor Benoit served as a board member for the Desert Sands Unified School District in 1999. He also served as a State Senator and while serving as a California Assemblyman, Mr. Benoit drew from his dedication to bettering the lives of children as well as his respect for law and order to write, introduce, and advance Aryanna's Law, Assembly Bill 617, which instituted tougher daycare safety measures. As a resident of California and a father of twin girls, I personally thank him for his work in protecting our children.

I am honored to have had the opportunity to work with him while he was a Riverside County Supervisor. His dedication, respect, and love for his constituents is as an example for all who want to serve their community. I give my deepest sympathies to his wife, Sheryl, and to their two children, Ben and Sarah.

HONORING THE 2017 FAIRFAX COUNTY STUDENT PEACE AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the recipients of the 2017 Fairfax County Student Peace Awards.

The program was founded in 2006 to encourage high-school-aged students to think about peace as both a means and an end, and to recognize young people who work as peacemakers. The program began with one high school and expanded gradually from there. By 2013, the program was offered in every public high school in Fairfax County, as well as in three private schools.

Participating high schools choose one junior or senior or one student group active in promoting peace and/or removing the causes of conflict. Examples of outreach include: committing to peace by engaging in activities that strive to end conflict, either locally or globally, seeking to discuss or otherwise resolve potentially controversial issues within the school or